

## The Theaters—By Percy Hammond

Margaret Lawrence



Miss Lawrence Plays a Girl of 18, a Woman of 40 and an Old Lady of 73, All in One Evening

"Secrets," a play by Rudolph Besier and Miss Mary Edgington, presented by Sam H. Harris at the Fulton Theater.

The cast:

**PROLOGUE, 1922**

A room in Sir John Carlton's house in Piccadilly, London.

Lady Carlton ..... Miss Lawrence

Lady Lessington ..... Barbara Allen

Audrey Carlton ..... Mignon O'Doherty

John Carlton ..... Fred Astaire

Hector Choper ..... Horace Cooper

Dr. Arbutnott ..... Frazier Coulter

**ACT I, 1867**

Mary Marlowe's bedroom in her parents' house at Black Heath.

Mary Marlowe ..... Miss Lawrence

Mrs. Marlowe ..... Mrs. Edmund Gurney

Elizabeth Channing ..... Lillian Brannard

Miss Weston ..... Shirley P. King

Walter Weston ..... Orlando Day

John Carlton ..... Tom Nesbitt

(Intermission of eight minutes)

**ACT II, 1879**

Living room of a two-room shack in Wyoming.

Mary Carlton ..... Miss Lawrence

Dr. Arbutnott ..... Norman Housen

John Carlton ..... Tom Nesbitt

**ACT III, 1888**

Drawing room of Sir John Carlton's house in Piccadilly, Terrace, London.

Lady Carlton ..... Miss Lawrence

Lady Lessington ..... Barbara Allen

Audrey Carlton ..... Mignon O'Doherty

John Carlton ..... Fred Astaire

Hector Choper ..... Horace Cooper

Dr. Arbutnott ..... Frazier Coulter

Nurse Martin ..... Nora Ryan

**WHEN we arrived a little tardily at "Secrets" last night Miss Margaret Lawrence, as Mary Marlowe, was preparing to abondon with one of her cruel father's indigent clerks. There she was in the 1867 hoops and flounces of her débütante's ball dress, eager to abandon her comfortable London home and descend a ladder en route with the man of her heart to the adventures of life upon a Wyoming ranch.**

Few things are to be seen in the drama more irresistible than Miss Lawrence as a trembling Victorian ingenue at the moment of elopement. Plucky, pretty, warm and earnest, she raised her faithful eyes to those of her lover so agreeably last evening that we were rather glad that we had missed the prologue. In the prologue (1922) Miss Lawrence impersonates an aged lady in ruminations about her past; and the succeeding episodes represent, as in a dream, the occurrences of her interesting career.

The first of these happenings is on a frowning American frontier, where she, her sick baby and John Carlton, her good husband, are having serious trouble with the neighbors. Mr. Tom Nesbitt, as Carlton, has been influential in the lynching of a cattle thief, and his blood is sought by a gang of avenging desperadoes. They attack the log cabin, and many rounds of ammunition are fired. In the course of the battle Miss Lawrence, still charming, shoots one of the invaders through the heart just as he is about to kill Mr. Nesbitt. She justifies, thereby, the encomium of the fine old pioneer doctor who has previously announced that he would "sooner have that slip of a girl fightin' for me in a tight place

than the champion puglist of all the universe!"

The crops and other enterprises of the Carltons having rendered them Previous to this he has gone so far as to finance a comic opera in New York on behalf of what he calls "a little dancer." "Wealth, power and women," he says, have been his downfall, as upon his knees he pleads with Lady Carlton to take him back. "It is the beast in me!" he cries, and he explains her that it was in Montevideo that he first fell, accompanied by the wife of a Spanish-American rancher.

Miss Lawrence's acting really is lovely in these moments of forgiveness, so understanding is it and the character which it depicts from a masculine point of view. The remorseful prosorus, we encounter them next, after a lapse of eighteen years, tilled, affluent, middle aged and living in London. Sir John, however, has developed animal tendencies, and he is having a liaison with a wicked Mrs. Mainwaring, knight, having been exused his transgression, bids Mrs. Mainwaring (Miss Diantha Pattison) to begone. As he holds the door open for her she exits threateningly, saying as she goes away, "You shall pay for this, Sir John Carlton!"

They are old in the epilogue—Sir

John upon his deathbed and Lady Mary answering his loving, querulous cries for her to come to him. Again is Miss Lawrence's acting exquisite as she answers his forlorn summons. As Dr. Arbutnott (Mr. Frazier Coulter) exclaims, "They don't breed women like that any more!"

You get a good, rather thoughtful story in "Secrets," though it is told sometimes in language none too fresh.

The actors, most of whom are English, are therefore, excellent, in particular Mr. Nesbitt; and so is the stage direction by Sam Forrest. It is by Rudolph Besier, the author of "Don," and Miss May Edgington. In London it is a money-maker, as, no doubt, it will be here.

Fay Bainter a Saint in "The Lady Cristilinda"

"The Lady Cristilinda" by Maxkeiten Hoff, presented at the Broadhurst Theater by William Harris Jr., starring Fay Bainter, who is supported by the following cast:

Mr. H. the Duke of Calshot ..... Gavin Muriel

The Bishop of Utterley ..... Arnold Lucy

The Marquis of Leith ..... J. Malone Dunn

His Worship ..... Frank Arnould

Thomas Loudon ..... Harry Lauder

Father Reaney ..... St. Clair Balford

Lord Llanelli ..... Ethelbert Hayes

Lord Llanelli ..... Charles Cotesworth

Courtney Foote ..... Leslie Howard

Martin ..... F. Kaye

Mr. Julius Samson ..... Eugene Powers

Col. Thackeray Martyn ..... Lawrence Grant

Mr. T. Tucker ..... Thomas H. Huxley

Mr. M. Arbutnott ..... St. Clair Balford

Father Reaney ..... St. Clair Balford

Lord Llanelli ..... Ethelbert Hayes

Lord Llanelli ..... Charles Cotesworth

Charles Chetham ..... Frank Arnould

Charles Chetham ..... St. Clair Balford

Charles Chetham ..... Harry Lauder

Charles Chetham ..... St. Clair Balford

Charles Chetham ..... St. Clair Balford